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Applicant(s) : Werner Haug  
Serial No. : NOT YET KNOWN (PCT/CH01/00115)  
Int. Filed : February 22, 2001  
For : FRANKING MACHINE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

S I R:

In advance of the first office action, please amend the claims  
as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Replace current claims 1 - 15 by the enclosed amended claims  
1 - 15. A marked-up version of amended claims 1 - 15 is also enclosed.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 - 15 are in the application.

As a result of the foregoing amendment, the claims have been  
amended to remove improper multiple dependencies.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection  
with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office  
Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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FK:ml

ENCLS:

Amended Claims;  
Marked-Up Version.

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express mail under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

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CLEAN VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. Franking machine with at least one print head of an inkjet print mechanism for printing flat postal objects such as letters or postcards insertable into or passing through the machine, comprised of a guide part (39) arranged so as to project about the print head and further relative to its jet opening plane, having correlated therewith a transport device for transporting the postal objects between it and oppositely positioned conveying rollers rotating about axes oriented transverse to the conveying direction, wherein the transport device has two drive rollers (32, 33) connected in driving connection with one another and forming together with the guide part (39) a conveying path, which, when viewed in the conveying direction, are arranged before and behind the print head and in that a counterpressure roller (13, 15) is arranged opposite thereto, respectively, which exerts a pressure against one drive roller (32, 33) or the postal object to be transported therebetween and which is reversibly liftable.
2. Machine according to claim 1, wherein between the counterpressure rollers (13, 15) a support roller (14) is arranged which is connected to at least one of the liftable counterpressure rollers (13, 15) and adjustable with respect to the spacing of the guide part (39).

3. Machine according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the counterpressure rollers (13, 15) and the support roller (14) can be moved into an insertion position, a franking position, or a servicing position.
4. Machine according to claim 2, wherein the counterpressure rollers (13, 15) are supported, respectively, on controlled counterpressure lever pairs (6A,6B; 8A,8B) which have a common pivot axle (10).
5. Machine according to claim 4, wherein the support roller (14) is connected by a cam follower pair (22) with at least one of the counterpressure lever pairs (6A,6B; 8A,8B).
6. Machine according to claim 4, wherein the counterpressure lever pairs (6A,6B; 8A,8B) are connected by a driving connection with a control curve pair (1A,1B; 2A,2B), respectively, arranged on a motorically driven main shaft (3) and can be moved into a transport-active position.
5. Machine according to claim 2, wherein the counterpressure rollers (13, 15) and the support roller (14) can be controlled so as to be lowered simultaneously.

8. Machine according to claim 1, wherein the counterpressure lever pairs (6A,6B; 8A,8B) are connected by tension springs (36) with a counter control lever pair (7A,7B; (9A, 9B) supported on the control curve pairs (1A,1B; 2A,2B).
9. Machine according to claim 8, wherein the control lever pairs (7A,7B; 9A,9B) are supported on the pivot axle (10).
10. Machine according to claim 9, wherein the control lever pairs (7A, 7B; 9A,9B) are supported against spring force by means of control rollers (29) on the control curves (1A, 1B; 2A,2B).
11. Machine according to claim 8, wherein the lower position of the counterpressure roller pairs (6A, 6B; 8A, 8B) is defined by a stop (11, 12) fastened on the control lever pairs (7A,7B; 9A,9B).
12. Machine according to claim 5, wherein the support roller (14) is supported on a support roller carrier pair (21) connected to the control lever pair (7A, 7B).

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13. Machine according to claim 12, wherein the support roller carrier pair (21) is connected at the end facing away from the support roller (14) with a parallelogram linkage pair (16A, 16B) and at the support roller end with the counterpressure roller (13) by means of the cam follower pair (22).
14. Machine according to claim 13, wherein the cam follower pair (22) is connected by tension springs with the free end of the parallelogram linkage pair (16A, 16B).
15. Machine according to claim 14, wherein the counterpressure lever pair (6A, 6B) is supported in the area of the counterpressure roller (15) on the parallelogram linkage pair (16A, 16B).

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

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1. Franking machine with at least one print head of an inkjet print mechanism for printing flat postal objects such as letters or postcards insertable into or passing through the machine, comprised of a guide part (39) arranged so as to project about the print head and further relative to its jet opening plane, having correlated therewith a transport device for transporting the postal objects between it and oppositely positioned conveying rollers rotating about axes oriented transverse to the conveying direction, [characterized in that] wherein the transport device has two drive rollers (32, 33) connected in driving connection with one another and forming together with the guide part (39) a conveying path, which, when viewed in the conveying direction, are arranged before and behind the print head and in that a counterpressure roller (13, 15) is arranged opposite thereto, respectively, which exerts a pressure against one drive roller (32, 33) or the postal object to be transported therebetween and which is reversibly liftable.
  2. Machine according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein between the counterpressure rollers (13, 15) a support roller (14) is arranged which is connected to at least one of the liftable counterpressure rollers (13, 15) and adjustable with respect to the spacing of the guide part (39).

3. Machine according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein at least one of the counterpressure rollers (13, 15) and the support roller (14) can be moved into an insertion position, a franking position, or a servicing position.
4. Machine according to [one of the claims 2 or 3, characterized in that] claim 2, wherein the counterpressure rollers (13, 15) are supported, respectively, on controlled counterpressure lever pairs (6A,6B; 8A,8B) which have a common pivot axle (10).
5. Machine according to claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the support roller (14) is connected by a cam follower pair (22) with at least one of the counterpressure lever pairs (6A,6B; 8A,8B).
6. Machine according to claim 4, [characterized in that] wherein the counterpressure lever pairs (6A,6B; 8A,8B) are connected by a driving connection with a control curve pair (1A,1B; 2A,2B), respectively, arranged on a motorically driven main shaft (3) and can be moved into a transport-active position.
7. Machine according to [one of the claims 2 to 6, characterized in that] claim 2, wherein the counterpressure rollers (13, 15) and the support roller (14) can be controlled so as to be lowered simultaneously.



8. Machine according to [one of the claims 1 to 7, characterized in that] claim 1, wherein the counterpressure lever pairs (6A,6B; 8A,8B) are connected by tension springs (36) with a counter control lever pair (7A,7B; 9A, 9B) supported on the control curve pairs (1A,1B; 2A,2B) .
9. Machine according to claim 8, [characterized in that] wherein the control lever pairs (7A,7B; 9A,9B) are supported on the pivot axle (10) .
10. Machine according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the control lever pairs (7A, 7B; 9A,9B) are supported against spring force by means of control rollers (29) on the control curves (1A, 1B; 2A,2B) .
11. Machine according to [one of the claims 8 to 10, characterized in that] claim 8, wherein the lower position of the counterpressure roller pairs (6A, 6B; 8A, 8B) is defined by a stop (11, 12) fastened on the control lever pairs (7A,7B; 9A,9B) .
12. Machine according to [one of the claims 5 to 11, characterized in that] claim 5, wherein the support roller (14) is supported on a support roller carrier pair (21) connected to the control lever pair (7A, 7B) .

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13. Machine according to claim 12, [characterized in that] wherein the support roller carrier pair (21) is connected at the end facing away from the support roller (14) with a parallelogram linkage pair (16A, 16B) and at the support roller end with the counterpressure roller (13) by means of the cam follower pair (22).
  14. Machine according to claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein the cam follower pair (22) is connected by tension springs with the free end of the parallelogram linkage pair (16A, 16B).
  15. Machine according to claim 14, [characterized in that] wherein the counterpressure lever pair (6A, 6B) is supported in the area of the counterpressure roller (15) on the parallelogram linkage pair (16A, 16B).